

High School Dropouts 2018-19

Massachusetts Public Schools

The annual high school dropout report represents a snapshot of those students who dropped out of school in any given year. The data contained in this dropout report reflect one year of dropout data across grades nine through twelve and not a particular cohort of students across four years. This report provides annual dropout data to education leaders to develop and strengthen dropout prevention programs in the state.

Please note that the Department has also calculated and released graduation rates for the 2019 cohort that provide a more complete picture of the outcomes of high school students in Massachusetts. It is important to keep in mind that the dropout data contained in the graduation rate reports is a cohort dropout rate and shows the cumulative effect of students dropping out over four years. The graduation rate reports can be viewed at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/reports/gradrates/>.

In the 2018-19 school year, 5,189 or 1.8 percent of students in grades nine through twelve dropped out of school.

Table 1: State Dropout Trends: 2008-09 to 2018-19

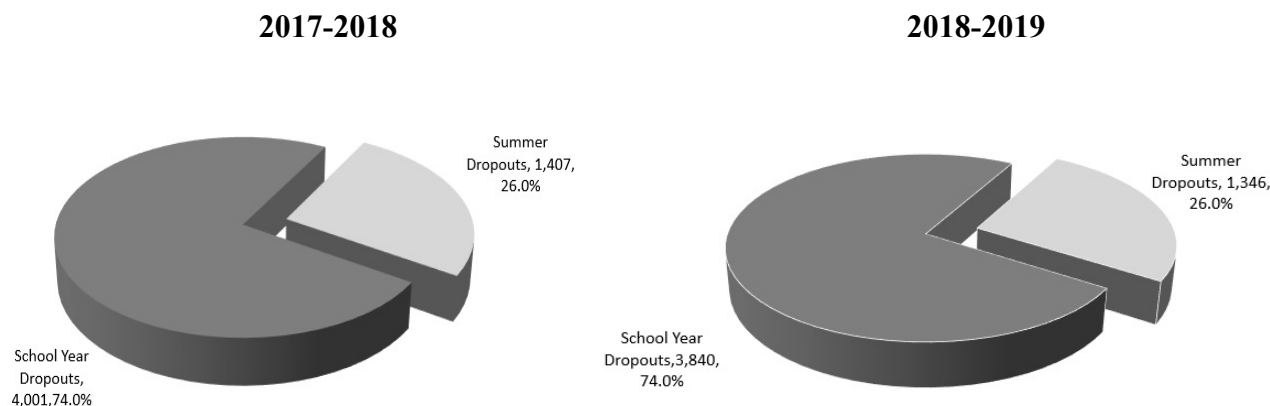
	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Total HS Enrollment	292,372	290,502	289,161	287,055	287,506	287,478	288,934	289,583	290,080	291,139	291,096
Number of Dropouts	8,585	8,296	7,894	7,051	6,248	5,746	5,346	5,523	5,172	5,408	5,186
Dropout Rate	2.9%	2.9%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%

Table 2: Final Enrollment Status of the 2018-19 Dropout Count

Code	Final Enrollment Status	Number of Dropouts	Percent of all Dropouts
Transfer	Transfer to an in-state public school (with no record of re-enrollment)	1,207	23.3%
Dropout	Enrolled in a non-diploma granting adult education program	637	12.3%
	Entered Job Corps	163	3.1%
	Entered the military	0	0.0%
	Incarcerated, district is no longer providing educational services	22	0.4%
	Left school due to employment	328	6.3%
	Confirmed dropout - plans unknown	1,557	30.0%
	Student's status/location unknown	1,272	24.5%
Total Dropout Count		5,186	100%

The final dropout count is based on two groups of students; summer and school year dropouts. Summer dropouts were reported in the October 1, 2018 SIMS submission as a dropout or a transfer to an in-state public school (with no record of re-enrollment) prior to the beginning of the 2018-19 school year, whereas school year dropouts were reported as either a dropout or as a transfer to in-state public (with no record of re-enrollment) during the 2018-19 school year. In 2018-19, the percentage of summer dropouts and school year dropouts remained unchanged from 2017-18, at 26% and 74% respectively.

**Figure 2: Comparison of Summer and School Year Dropouts
Composing the Total Dropout Counts in 2017-18 and 2018-19**



Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, in compliance with the National Center for Education Statistics reporting guidelines, summer dropouts were applied to the grade in which they failed to enroll. Therefore, students who completed grade eight but did not enroll in grade nine were included in the analysis as grade nine summer dropouts.

Table 3: Comparison of 2018-19 Summer Dropouts and School Year Dropouts by Grade

			Number of Dropouts	Total Grade Dropouts	Percent of Grade Dropouts
Grade	9	Summer	246	1,240	19.8%
		School Year	994		80.2%
	10	Summer	354	1,317	26.9%
		School Year	963		73.1%
	11	Summer	257	1,261	20.4%
		School Year	1,004		79.6%
	12	Summer	488	1,368	35.7%
		School Year	880		64.3%

Beginning with the class of 2010, the Department required students to meet the following requirements to earn a Competency Determination (CD) in order to graduate from high school¹:

1. Meet or exceed the Proficient threshold scaled score of 240 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 legacy Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests, or (b) meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the English Language Arts and Mathematics grade 10 legacy MCAS tests and fulfill the requirements of an Educational Proficiency Plan.

¹ Data in this section can only be compared to tables from 2010; data from years prior to 2010 is not comparable because of this policy change. Additional information on the Competency Determination standards can be found at <http://www.doe.mass.edu/lawsregs/603cmr30.html?section=03>.

2. Meet or exceed the Needs Improvement threshold scaled score of 220 on the Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS test

Students who did not pass the grade ten MCAS had the opportunity to pass the MCAS through re-test opportunities before their scheduled graduation date. Among both grade eleven and grade twelve dropouts, 58.4 percent had earned a CD by meeting the standard before dropping out of school.

Table 4: Dropout Rates and Percent of Dropouts Among Competency Determination (CD) Earners and Students without a CD

Grade	CD Status	Number of Enrolled Students	Number of Dropouts	Dropout Rate	Percent of Dropouts
11	With CD	66,610	536	0.8%	42.5%
	Without CD	4,540	725	16.0%	57.5%
12	With CD	67,909	847	1.2%	61.8%
	Without CD	2,285	521	22.8%	38.1%
Total	With CD	134,519	1,383	1.0%	52.6%
	Without CD	6,825	1,246	18.3%	47.4%

Table 5: Annual Dropout Data for Selected Demographics: 2018-19

		Total HS Enrollment	Percent of HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rate	Percent of all Dropouts
Grade	9 th	76,361	26.2%	1,240	1.6%	23.9%
	10 th	73,391	25.2%	1,317	1.8%	25.4%
	11 th	71,150	24.4%	1,261	1.8%	24.3%
	12 th	70,194	24.1%	1,368	1.9%	26.4%
Race/ Ethnicity	African American	26,958	9.3%	700	2.6%	13.5%
	Asian	19,278	6.6%	89	0.5%	1.7%
	Hispanic	55,625	19.1%	2,382	4.3%	45.9%
	Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	8,875	3.1%	160	1.8%	3.1%
	Native American	694	0.2%	19	2.7%	0.4%
	Native Hawaiian	265	0.1%	6	2.3%	0.1%
	White	179,401	61.6%	1,830	1.0%	35.3%
Gender	Female	143,351	49.3%	2,026	1.4%	39.0%
	Male	147,588	50.7%	3,152	2.1%	60.8%

Table 6: Annual Dropout Rates for Selected Demographics: 2011-12 to 2018-19

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Grade	9	2.3%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%
	10	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%	1.7%	1.8%
	11	2.4%	2.2%	2.0%	1.7%	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.8%
	12	2.6%	2.4%	2.1%	2.0%	2.1%	1.8%	2.2%	1.9%
Race/ Ethnicity	African American	4.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.0%	3.2%	2.9%	2.9%	2.6%
	Asian	1.5%	1.1%	1.0%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%
	Hispanic	6.1%	5.4%	4.9%	4.4%	4.5%	4.2%	4.5%	4.3%
	Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	2.6%	2.5%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
	Native American	4.5%	4.2%	2.8%	3.4%	3.8%	4.0%	2.6%	2.7%
	Native Hawaiian	4.3%	4.4%	3.6%	2.7%	2.8%	2.2%	0.0%	2.3%
	White	1.5%	1.3%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%
Gender	Female	2.0%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%
	Male	2.9%	2.6%	2.4%	2.2%	2.4%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%

Table 7: Annual Dropout Data by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 2018-19

		HS Enrollment	Percent of HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rate	Percent of all Dropouts
African American	Female	13,213	4.5%	282	2.1%	5.4%
	Male	13,741	4.7%	417	3.0%	8.0%
Asian	Female	9,783	3.4%	29	0.3%	0.6%
	Male	9,491	3.3%	60	0.6%	1.2%
Hispanic	Female	26,915	9.2%	929	3.5%	17.9%
	Male	28,685	9.9%	1,451	5.1%	28.0%
Multi-Race, Non-Hispanic	Female	4,473	1.5%	75	1.7%	1.4%
	Male	4,394	1.5%	85	1.9%	1.6%
Native American	Female	351	0.1%	8	2.3%	0.2%
	Male	343	0.1%	11	3.2%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian	Female	125	0.0%	3	2.4%	0.1%
	Male	139	0.0%	3	2.2%	0.1%
White	Female	88,491	30.4%	700	0.8%	13.5%
	Male	90,795	31.2%	1,125	1.2%	21.7%

Table 8: Annual Dropout Rates by Race/Ethnicity and Gender: 2011-12 to 2018-19

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
African American	Female	3.5%	3.0%	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%	2.1%
	Male	5.4%	4.7%	4.2%	3.7%	3.9%	3.6%	3.5%	3.0%
Asian	Female	1.3%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
	Male	1.7%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%
Hispanic	Female	5.3%	4.5%	4.0%	3.8%	3.4%	3.4%	3.7%	3.5%
	Male	6.8%	6.2%	5.8%	5.0%	5.7%	5.0%	5.3%	5.1%
Multi-Race, Non- Hispanic	Female	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	2.2%	2.3%	1.3%	1.5%	1.7%
	Male	3.3%	2.9%	3.0%	2.7%	2.5%	2.2%	2.3%	1.9%
Native American	Female	4.6%	4.0%	2.1%	3.3%	3.1%	3.2%	1.8%	2.3%
	Male	4.5%	4.3%	3.5%	3.5%	4.6%	4.9%	3.4%	3.2%
Native Hawaiian	Female	3.2%	3.4%	2.1%	2.8%	0.7%	1.5%	0.0%	2.4%
	Male	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%	2.7%	5.1%	2.7%	0.0%	2.2%
White	Female	1.2%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%
	Male	1.8%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%	1.2%

Table 9: Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2018-19

		Total HS Enrollment	Percent of HS Enrollment	Number of Dropouts	Annual Dropout Rate	Percent of all Dropouts
Students with Disabilities	Students with Disabilities	46,135	15.8%	1,442	3.1%	27.8%
	Students without Disabilities	244,961	84.2%	3,744	1.5%	72.2%
English Language Learner (ELL)	ELL	19,974	6.9%	1,427	7.1%	27.5%
	Non ELL	271,122	93.1%	3,759	1.4%	72.5%
Economically Disadvantaged²	Economically Disadvantaged	79,797	27.4%	3,016	3.8%	58.2%
	Non Economically Disadvantaged	211,299	72.6%	2,170	1.0%	41.8%
High Needs	High Needs	120,417	41.4%	4,156	3.5%	80.1%
	Non-High Needs	170,679	58.6%	1,030	0.6%	19.9%

² In the 2014-15 school year, the Department began determining income status using the Economically Disadvantaged indicator and discontinued use of the Low Income indicator. For more information, please see: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ed.html>.

Table 10: Annual Dropout Rates for Special Populations: 2011-12 to 2018-19

		2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Students with Disabilities	Students with Disabilities	3.6%	3.3%	3.3%	3.5%	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	3.1%
	Students without Disabilities	2.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.6%	1.7%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%
English Learner (EL)	EL	6.9%	6.5%	6.3%	5.7%	6.6%	6.5%	7.6%	7.1%
	Non EL	2.3%	2.0%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%
Low- Income	Low-Income	4.4%	3.8%	3.5%	-	-	-	-	-
	Non Low-Income	1.5%	1.3%	1.1%	-	-	-	-	-
Economically Disadvantaged	Economically Disadvantaged	-	-	-	3.3%	4.1%	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%
	Non Economically Disadvantaged	-	-	-	1.4%	1.2%	1.1%	1.2%	1.0%
High Needs	High Needs	4.1%	3.8%	3.5%	3.4%	3.7%	3.5%	3.6%	3.5%
	Non-High Needs	1.2%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%

Table 11: Annual Dropout Rates by School Type 2011-12 to 2018-19

	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Regular/Comprehensive Academic Schools (322)³	2.5%	2.2%	2.0%	1.8%	1.9%	1.7%	1.9%	1.8%
Vocational-Technical Total (36)	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
City/Town (7)	3.8%	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.1%	1.7%	1.8%	1.1%
Regional/County/Independent (29)	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Charter Schools (51)⁴	3.3%	3.8%	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%	3.3%	3.0%	3.4%
Schools Located in Cities⁵ (192)	3.9%	3.4%	3.2%	2.8%	3.0%	2.8%	2.9%	2.7%
Schools Located in Towns (214)	1.1%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%

³ Represents the number of schools in the category in the 2018-19 school year.

⁴ Represents all charter schools with enrollment in grades nine through twelve, including those whose primary mission is to serve at-risk students

⁵ As defined by the incorporation status within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Table 12: Annual Dropout Rates Among Schools: 2012-13 to 2018-19⁶

	2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19	
<i>Number of Schools Included</i>	358		363		364		371		368		369		367	
Annual Rate	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
0	31	9	26	7	30	8	30	8	29	8	34	9	36	10
0.1 – 1.0	124	35	150	41	151	41	159	43	170	46	167	45	178	49
1.1 – 2.5	116	32	106	29	104	29	101	27	87	24	88	24	78	21
2.6 – 5.0	49	14	42	12	39	11	38	10	41	11	42	11	43	12
5.1 – 7.5	12	3	8	2	13	4	9	2	12	3	10	3	5	1
7.6 – 10.0	2	1	4	1	5	1	7	2	4	1	4	1	4	1
10.1 and above	24	7	27	7	22	6	27	7	25	7	24	7	23	6

⁶Only includes schools with enrollment of 75 students or more as dropout rates for schools with low enrollments are overly sensitive to small variations.